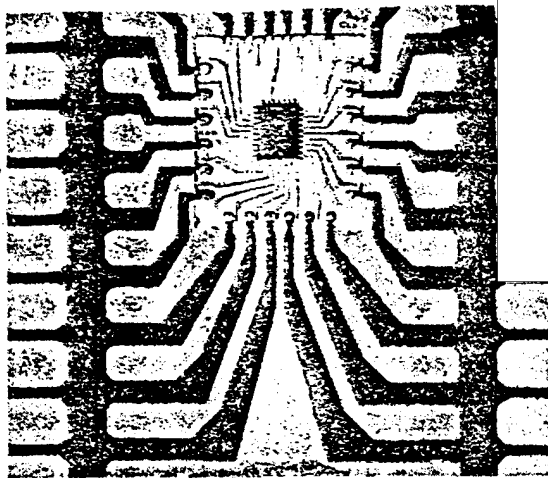


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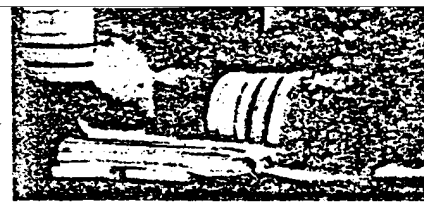
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Bruce Hootel



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Larry Downing—Newsweek

Weinberger, a microchip circuit, Inman: Warnings that Moscow intends to use the West's own technology as a weapon

Keeping High-Tech Secrets

Last summer a fisherman off the North Carolina coast hauled in an unusual catch: a Soviet sonar buoy. Inside, Pentagon experts found a sophisticated electronic package that could transmit information on water temperature, current speed and salinity—all of great value to Soviet submarines at sea. More disturbing was the discovery that the electronic chips guiding its operation were replicas of circuitry made by RCA Corp. in the United States. That and many similar incidents have convinced the American Government that the leakage of Western technology to the Soviet Union has grown to alarming proportions. Using the Polish crisis as its rallying point, the Reagan Administration has launched a determined effort to persuade U.S. specialists and the Western allies to staunch the flow. In a bellwether speech last week, Assistant Commerce Secretary Lawrence J. Brady recalled the prediction attributed to Lenin "that the capitalists would gladly sell the rope with which they would be hung."

The United States took its case to Brussels last week at a special meeting of the NATO alliance to discuss Western responses to the military repression in Poland. The NATO ministers agreed that "Soviet actions toward Poland make it necessary for the allies to examine the course of future economic and commercial relations with the Soviet Union." That examination will begin this week under the aegis of COCOM, the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, an obscure organization in Paris that regulates Western sales of military, nuclear and sensitive industrial equipment to the Communist world. The U.S. delegation will be pressing for much tighter restrictions

goods and technologies. "We will present new evidence to our allies on how the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact are using Western technology to strengthen their offensive military capabilities," Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger wrote in the Wall Street Journal last week.

Specifically, the United States will be pushing for strict new curbs on goods that can be used for both civilian and military purposes—and a total embargo on equipment needed by the Soviets to build their 3,600-mile natural-gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe. Such proposals have

*Washington launches
a drive to cut
the flow of valuable
Western technology
to the East bloc.*

already raised protests in West Germany, where the Soviet trade is particularly lucrative. Faced with an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent—the highest level in two decades—West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has been telling audiences that an American grain embargo would be a more effective sanction against the Kremlin's misbehavior in Poland. And besides, insists a spokesman for the West German economics ministry, "the East bloc has the raw materials, and we have the capital and the know-how. It's a state of affairs which cries for cooperation."

restrictions that the Reagan Administration hopes to impose at home. Warning of a public outrage against any further "hemorrhage of the country's technology" to the Soviets, deputy CIA director Bobby Ray Inman recently warned American scientists to voluntarily submit their work for review by intelligence agencies. The alternative, he asserted, would be "a confrontation between national security and science" that could lead to repressive laws restricting the publication of any scientific findings that the government considered "sensitive" to national security.

Such a confrontation has already occurred between Washington and some major research centers. Last fall the State Department sent letters to academic researchers across the country requesting information about the study programs of foreign science students. Many schools bristled at what they felt was an intrusion on academic freedom. "Our response was to send the State Department a copy of the physics department's catalogue describing the courses," says Edward Gerjuoy of the University of Pittsburgh. "These are our programs and all of our graduate students are treated the same way." The Massachusetts Institute of Technology also refused to cooperate. "We do not do any classified work here, therefore I do not find it necessary to fill out the form," says Herman Feshbach, chairman of MIT's physics department.

Cryptography: Many university researchers do cooperate with the government in sensitive fields like cryptography: a study group composed of academicians and government intelligence specialists screens cryptography manuscripts before publica-